

as my punt approached I saw an Indian River-Tern (*Sterna seena*) stoop just like a hawk at the heads of the Sarus, which ducked their heads nearly to the ground each time the Tern stooped in a most ludicrous manner. I of course expected to find some Tern's eggs but did not do so, the only eggs being one half-incubated Red-wattled Plover's (*Lobivanellus gonsis*) and two practically fresh—Little Ringed Plover (*Ægialitis dubia*). I searched the shore of the main land as well but could not discover any Tern's eggs, so still remain in the dark as to the cause of the vicious attacks on the Sarus.

On May 15th in the same place I saw flying what I took to be a young *Sterna seena* so whether the Sarus had destroyed or hurt another one on the previous day I do not know.

MARTIN YOUNG, M.B.O.U.,  
1ST YORK AND LANC. REGT.

MHOW, C. I., 15th May, 1905.

#### NO. XXII.—A SNAKE'S NEST.

While searching for Kingfisher's nests to-day I found a big grass nest in a chamber at the end of a short passage bored in a canal bank. This I found to contain a number of snake's eggs. Two hatched out while I was looking at them, but on opening another I found the youngster quite alive, though evidently not ready to make his appearance. Believing that snakes are always welcome I am sending the whole lot off by parcel post to the Museum.

ARUNDEL BEGBIE, MAJOR.

CAWNPORE, 14th May, 1905.

[The snakes arrived safely and some 24 young specimens of the check red water snake (*Tropidonotus piscator*) were alive in the box.—1 DITS RS.]

#### NO. XXIII.—THE HIMALAYAN NUTCRACKER (*NUCIFRAGA HEMISPILA*).

With reference to General Osborn's "Notes on the Himalayan Nutcracker," on page 628 of Vol. XIV, and Mr Osmaston's comments thereon on page 818 of the same Volume may I be permitted to add my observations on the subject.

Before I had seen General Osborn's remarks to the effect that *N. hemispila* itself perforated the little round holes one frequently finds in the wild walnut, I had been interested in the matter and especially so, when I on one occasion watched, through my glasses, a Nutcracker busy with a walnut. It picked up the walnut every now and again and put it down, as though choosing a better place and then would give it two or three smart taps. By the way it picked it up, off the ground, I could see that the walnut must already have had a crack or hole in it, as the beak was hardly opened more than half an inch, and after carefully watching it I saw that I was right, as the cracked side turned towards me and I distinctly saw a hole in it. I could not believe that the Nutcracker had made the hole and after it went off, as it did shortly after, I went down and examined the walnut and 2 or 3 others similarly treated.